



Blood and Donor Services

CHOC Commerce Tower
505 S. Main Street, 1st floor, Suite 185, Orange, CA 92868
Hours: Monday – Friday 7:30 am – 7:00 pm
Telephone: (714) 532-8339 Fax: (714) 532-8830

Autologous Blood Donation: General Information and Donation Criteria

Autologous blood donation allows the patient to donate his/her own blood in advance of a surgery or medical procedure in which blood transfusion may be necessary.

The autologous donor must:

- Be medically stable, have adequate veins, and be emotionally capable of donating.
- Have a hemoglobin level of ≥ 11.0 gm/dL. Hemoglobin is checked prior to each donation.
- Be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian for the donation.

Setting up the Autologous Blood Donation Program

- A written order requesting autologous donation is required from the child's healthcare provider. The provider's office staff can fax the written order to CHOC Children's Blood Donor Services.
- **It is important to schedule the child's blood donation as soon as possible in order to allow enough time prior to the anticipated surgery/transfusion date to collect the required amount of blood.** The last donation should be scheduled at least a week before the surgery or medical procedure.
- Contact Blood and Donor Services at (714) 532-8339 to schedule an appointment to donate.

On the Day of Donation

- Ensure that your child has had a substantial meal within three hours of the blood donation.
- Your child will undergo a limited physical examination.
- The prescreening and blood donation process will take approximately one hour.
- Our staff is dedicated to providing a comfortable, encouraging atmosphere for you and your child and will make every effort to make this experience as pleasant and stress free as possible.

Alternatives to Autologous Blood Donation

- **Designated Donor Blood Donation:** Friends or family members may donate blood for your child's anticipated blood transfusion. The CHOC donor center can accommodate your designated donors if this option is selected. Designated donation does not necessarily ensure a safer blood supply nor does it decrease the risk associated with transfusion.
- **The Community Blood Supply:** Blood that has been voluntarily donated by members of the community. All blood donors are screened and tested in the same way. A supply of these blood products is available for your child, if this option is selected.
- **Questions regarding blood donation options?** Please contact your child's physician or CHOC Blood and Donor Services with any questions you may have regarding your options.